

## *Contraceptives: Implants*

### IMPLANON:

A three-year "contraceptive" implant designed to rival the pill in popularity, Implanon will be available in Australia by the end of the year. Researcher, author and pharmacist John Wilks, B.Pharm, MPS, points out that the side effects include irregular and unpredictable bleeding, slight weight gain, headache, acne, breast pain and endometrial thinning (leading to early abortion).

(Reading: "Implant to Rival the Pill," Herald Sun (Australia), 11/10/99, <http://www.news.com.au>; John Wilks, B.Pharm., MPS, Briefing Paper - Implanon, 11/99; Concerned Women for America web information on Implanon: [http://www.cwfa.org/library/life/1998-07\\_pp\\_glossary.shtml](http://www.cwfa.org/library/life/1998-07_pp_glossary.shtml))

### MECHANISM OF ACTION:

An analysis of studies involving the mode of action of hormonal contraceptives and IUDs admits that in each case there are "multiple biologic effects" including "effects on the endometrium." Researchers point out that such effects "could affect implantation" but state that "no scientific evidence indicates that prevention of implantation actually results from the use of these methods," though they admit to breakthrough ovulation actually occurring.

The researchers pose the following false scientific definition: "once pregnancy begins, none of these methods has an abortifacient action."

### **COMMENT (by ALL):**

In other words, the false view that pregnancy does not begin until implantation implies lack of honesty in the balance of the study.

(Reading: "The Mechanism of Action of Hormonal Contraceptives and Intrauterine Contraceptive Devices," American Journal of Obstetrics and Gynecology, 11/99, pp. 1263-1269)